

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 04280 010625Z

11

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /038 W

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R 010554Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6063

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 4280

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: AS, IS, PFOR, PDIP

SUBJECT: NEW AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL

REF: CANBERRA 3960

1. ON JUNE 12 THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF RICHARD J. SMITH AS THE NEW AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL. SMITH, AGED 40, IS A CAREER DIPLOMAT. HE JOINED THE AUSTRALIAN DIPLOMATIC SERVICE IN 1961 AND HAS SERVED IN NEW DELHI, WASHINGTON, AND GENEVA. HIS MOST RECENT ASSIGNMENT WAS AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY IN CHARGE OF DFA'S INTERNATIONAL LEGAL BRANCH. SMITH IS A PLEASANT INDIVIDUAL AND A COMPETENT OFFICER WHO IS WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO THE EMBASSY FROM HIS WORK ON LAW OF THE SEA MATTERS. HE IS CAUTIOUS AND THOROUGH BUT DOES NOT IMPRESS US AS A PERSON WHO IS PARTICULARLY FORCEFUL OR INCLINED TO TAKE INITIATIVES ON HIS OWN. HIS RELATIVE YOUTH AND PRIOR EXPERIENCE, COUPLED WITH RECENT AUSTRALIAN MOVES TOWARDS THE PLO (SEE REFTTEL), INDICATE THAT AUSTRALIA PLANS TO KEEP ITS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL ON A COOL, CORRECT, AND RELATIVELY FORMAL LEVEL.
GREEN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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